

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A refrigerator for changing the temperature of wine from a starting temperature to a final temperature, comprising:  
a housing surrounding at least one interior space for receiving a container of wine;  
a low temperature generator for cooling said interior space;  
a control device for receiving a target value signal and controlling a temperature of said interior space to a target temperature represented by said target value signal, by controlling operation of said low temperature generator; and  
a control element sending said target value signal to said control device with a level varying according to a prescribed course to the final temperature, wherein said prescribed course includes a number of steps.
2. (Original) The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed course controls a monotonic fall or rise of said target temperature.
3. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 2, wherein said prescribed course controls a temperature change at a constant rate on average until the final temperature is reached.
4. (Currently amended) The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed course includes a number of steps, each step is with a constant level during that step.
5. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 1, which further comprises an operating element associated with said control element for permitting a user to specify the final temperature at an end of said prescribed course.

6. (Original) The refrigerator according to claim 1, which further comprises an operating element associated with said control element for permitting a user to specify a mean rate of change of said target temperature during said prescribed course.
7. (Original) The refrigerator according to claim 3, wherein said rate is between 0.5 and 3 K/h.
8. (Original) The refrigerator according to claim 6, wherein said rate is between 0.5 and 3 K/h.
9. (Original) The refrigerator according to claim 1, which further comprises a display element for indicating that an end of said prescribed course has been achieved.
10. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 1, including at least a first and a second interior space and said low temperature generator is coupled to both of said interior spaces and the temperature within each of said interior spaces is controlled independently.
11. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 1, including at least a first and a second interior space and a heating temperature generator coupled to both of said interior spaces and the temperature within each of said interior spaces is controlled independently.
12. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 1, including at least a first and a second interior space and said low temperature generator coupled to both of said interior spaces and a heating temperature generator coupled to both of said interior spaces, only one of said low temperature generator and said heating temperature generator operationally coupled to said first and second interior spaces at one time.
13. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 12, including an operating element associated with said control element for permitting a user to specify

the final temperature at an end of said prescribed course for either or both of said low temperature generator and said heating temperature generator.

14. (Previously presented) The refrigerator according to claim 13, including an operating element associated with said control element for permitting a user to specify a mean rate of change of said target temperature during said prescribed course for either or both of said low temperature generator and said heating temperature generator.

15. (Previously presented) A wine temperature moderating device for adjusting the temperature of wine from a starting temperature to a final temperature, the device comprising:

a housing at least partially defining an interior space for receiving wine containers;  
a low temperature generator for cooling the interior space;  
a temperature sensor sensing the actual temperature within the interior space and providing an actual signal input;  
a thermostat control device receiving the actual signal input representing the actual temperature and a target value signal input representing a target temperature and controlling operation of the low temperature generator to adjust the temperature of the interior space to the target temperature; and  
a control element connected to the thermostat control device and sending the target value signal input to the thermostat control device with a level varying according to a prescribed course that controls a change of target temperature at a substantially constant rate of change between about 0.5 and 3 K/h on average until the final temperature is reached.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the prescribed course controls a monotonic change of the target temperature including a number of steps having a substantially constant level during each step.

17. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a user interface and display element connected to the control element and receiving a user input for the final temperature.

18. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a user interface and display element connected to the control element and receiving a user input for the rate change.

19. (Previously presented) A method for adjusting the temperature of wine from a starting temperature to a final temperature with a wine temperature moderating device comprising a housing at least partially defining an interior space for receiving wine containers, a low temperature generator for cooling the interior space, a thermostat control device controlling operation of the low temperature generator to adjust the temperature of the interior space, and a control element electrically connected to the thermostat control device, the method comprising the acts of:

sending a target value signal input representing a target temperature from the control element to the thermostat control device; and

adjusting the target value signal input with a level varying according to a prescribed course that includes changing the target temperature at a substantially constant rate of change between about 0.5 and 3 K/h on average until the final temperature is reached.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the prescribed course controls a monotonic change of the target temperature including a number of steps having a substantially constant level during each step.